Tourism Authority for development of Sindhudurg. Big hotel chains have identified various sites for construction of hotel accommodation facilities, amusement parks and other tourist attractions in the area.

Relief to Hotel Sector

2135. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hotel industry is in bad shape for the last three consecutive years and are running in heavy loss; and

(b) whether Government plan to offer any relief to the hotel sector and make this industry once again vibrant and viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) and (b) The Union Government has accorded Export House status to Tourism Units including hotels which are entitled to various benefits. The Union Government also provides various incentives and concessional duty to the approved hotels and hotel projects including income tax exemptions, interest subsidy for 1—3 star and heritage hotels. The State Governments also provide support for Tourism as per policies in their area. Hotels being largely in the private have to deal with ups and downs in market conditions.

Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal

2136. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal which was estimated to cost Rs. 176 core has already cost Rs. 600 crore as reported in the Observer dated the 20th October, 1999;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the 91 km. stretch of this canal in Haryana has already been completed;